Patent Case No. ITR0020P

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Matassa, Victor G. et al.

Serial No.: 09/719,261

Filed: July 23, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: Mondesi, Robert B.

For: PEPTIDE INHIBITORS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS3 PROTEASE

## PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER § 1.136(a)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) to the Commissioner for Patents for an extension of the shortened statutory period for replying to the outstanding Office Action dated 04/27/2004 in the above-identified application. A response to said Action is (is not) attached hereto.

Please charge the following fee to Deposit Account No. 13-2755: \$110 -- First Month Extension 1 \$420 -- Second Month Extension \$950 -- Third Month Extension \$1480 -- Fourth Month Extension \$2010 -- Fifth Month Extension The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit

any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-2755. Duplicate copies of this sheet are enclosed.

08/18/2004 AADOFO1 00000056 132755 09719261

01 FC:1251

110.00 DA

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

By Blike Que Date 8-16-04 Respectfully,

By: Sheldon O. Heber

Attorney For Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 38,179

MERCK & CO., INC. Patent Dept., RY60-30

P.O. Box 2000

Rahway, N.J. 07065-0907

(732) 594-<u>1958</u>

Date: August 16, 2004

IN DUPLICATE